

Message

From: Moss, Suzanne [Suzanne.Moss@Illinois.gov]
Sent: 7/23/2019 4:16:05 PM
To: Niess, Claudia [niess.claudia@epa.gov]
CC: Calvo, Estrella [calvo.estrella@epa.gov]; Owens, Doug [Doug.Owens@Illinois.gov]; Noyes, Kari [Kari.Noyes@Illinois.gov]
Subject: RE: Pesticide Application Tip/Complaint, Edwardsville, IL

Thanks Claudia... we will get it assigned.

Suzanne Moss-Support Services Manager

Illinois Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Environmental Programs

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From: Niess, Claudia <niess.claudia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Moss, Suzanne <Suzanne.Moss@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Calvo, Estrella <calvo.estrella@epa.gov>
Subject: [External] Pesticide Application Tip/Complaint, Edwardsville, IL

Hi Suzanne:

The following tip/complaint was submitted to EPA's pesticide incident mailbox and involves an allegation of health effects following an application to a residential building on the Southern Illinois University campus. EPA Headquarters has reached out to the complainant and recommended she contact NPIC and her state agency, so you may receive direct contact from Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) if you haven't already. We are forwarding this to IDA for potential follow-up and investigation under IDA's primary enforcement authority under Section 26 of FIFRA. The complaint information is attached to this message and provided below:

Complainant Name and Contact: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Address: Edwardsville, IL

Complaint Date: 7/22/19

Description: "I live on the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville campus in family housing. The university sprayed weed killer right up against our residential apartment....my daughter had her windows open and her bed up

against the window. She is epileptic. I noticed a sharp increase in her already daily seizures on Friday and into Saturday. No notice was given to us so that we could make sure that our windows were closed. I question if they even used a stronger than normal strength...it literally killed the grass. Precaution was not used as you will see in the picture it is obvious that the container was leaking killing grass where it hit, leaving a trail of yellow-brown grass. This is an area where small children play in as well. I think we should have been given a notice so that the kids would not play in the area that was sprayed. Furthermore, the leaking of pesticides created a danger to the children and us adults.

I have contacted Facility Housing Management at 618-650-2070 and left a message for Kim, who is supposed to be the supervisor. I have not heard back. I would like if notice was given to the residents before they spray, and that the person spraying would use more caution as to not let the weed killer leak out. In the past, I have not seen the person spraying wearing any protective clothing, I don't know if it is recommended but after witnessing my daughter's seizures I think it should be.

I am attaching some pictures so you can see how they literally sprayed up under her window and how her window is always open. I am also attaching a picture of the trail of the leaking weed-killer.

Thank you for time and consideration in helping me keep my children's health safe. I can be reached at: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Please note! I took the pictures today, but I believe it was sprayed Friday morning. That is also when my daughter was having clusters of seizures.

Sincerely,

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Claudia Niess
Enforcement Officer
Pesticides & Toxics Compliance Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
P: (312) 886-7598